POPULATION TODAY

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The census of 1930. Poring through the shelves of a second-hand bookstore in York, Pennsylvania, I recently came across a venerable paperback with a most arresting title: *God and the Census*, by the Rev. Robert N. McLean, dated 1931. McLean praised the just-released census of 1930:

"A census is...far more than a mere counting of noses. While it charts the population increase of towns and cities, it also indicates the development of national and per capita wealth; measures the growth of industry; reveals the rise and fall in land values; shows the sorts of houses in which people live in both city and country districts; traces the movement of people from town to city; pictures the advances in public education. For the next ten years the material gathered in the census of 1930 will serve as the source for every serious study about the people of the United States.... The census is our barometer of national progress."

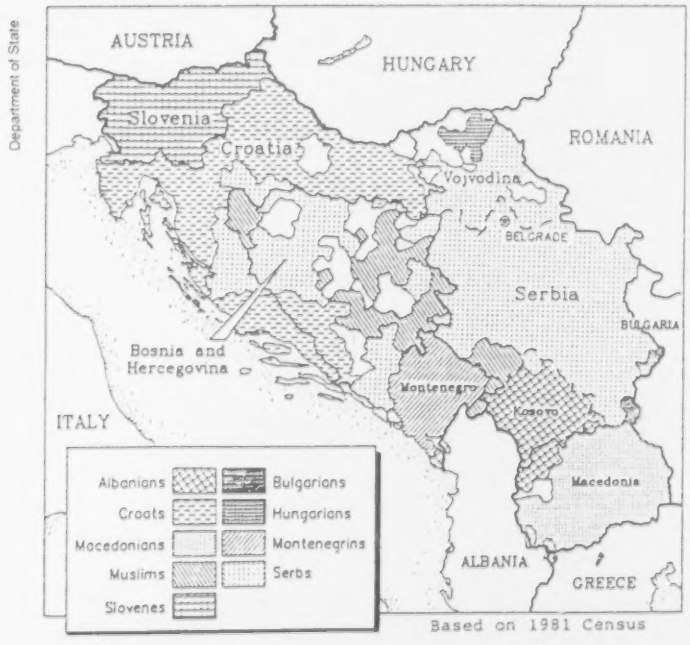
A Presbyterian churchman, McLean worked with "home missionary programs"—outreach to immigrants and workers in New York City. He must have been acutely aware of the acrimonious fallout from the census a decade earlier. The 1920 Census revealed a shift of population to the country's burgeoning, heavily immigrant urban areas. Congressional incumbents, who feared the impending power shift, restricted immigration and—for the only time in U.S. history—refused to carry out Constitutionally mandated reapportionment.

As a footnote, McLean did perceive some limitations to objective census data: "In our technique of the census we have worked out a method of estimating all values except spiritual values. We have learned how to gauge all signs of progress except moral progress. We have learned how to count everybody but God."

—Susan Kalish

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

Yugoslavia: Ethnic Majorities by Area



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Editor: Susan Kalish
Demographic Editor: Carl Haub
Book Review Editor: Nazy Roudi
Contributing Editors: Tom Godfrey; Taynia Mann
Consulting Editors: Thomas W. Merrick; Winthrop P. Carty; Sharon Hershey; Alex de Sherbinin; Machiko Yanagishita
Director of Publications: Carol J. De Vita
Production Coordinator: Aichin Lim Jones
Production Assistant: Jacqueline H. Guenther
Circulation Director: Jacki Majewski

Editorial and Circulation Offices:
Population Reference Bureau, Inc.
1875 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 520
Washington, D.C. 20009-5728
(202) 483-1100

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Recycled Paper

Nationalities of the USSR: Nations in Embryo?

Russian Information Agency-Novosti

Through the generations, the Azerbaydzhanis have retained their own ethnic identity.

For decades now, Americans have been accustomed to using the terms "the Soviet Union," "the USSR" and "Russia" almost interchangeably. Most of us never noticed that only about half the people in the USSR are, in fact, ethnically Russian—that is, they speak Russian or have family roots in Russia.

The other half of the population is a patchwork quilt of diverse groups. Groups range from the European, largely Christian Estonians, with women averaging just over two children in their lifetimes, to the central Asian, Islamic Uzbecks, with women averaging more than five children in their lifetimes. Although substantial numbers of Russians have settled in every corner of the USSR, different nationalities form the majority in all 11 of the national republics (in addition to Russia itself) that now constitute the USSR. (See Take a Number, page 10.)

As we go to press, three former USSR republics—Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia—have gained independence. The Baltic states now have seats in the United Nations. The Ukrainians have declared their independence, the Armenians have voted theirs, and independence movements exist in several other republics of the USSR. Exactly which and how many nations will eventually emerge from the pre-existing nationalities in the USSR is anyone's guess. That some so-dubbed "independence" movements seem to be pursuing something less than full separation from the center further complicates the matter.

The accompanying table shows the numbers of the major nationalities in the USSR as of the 1989 census. Out of a total population of 285 million, 145 million are ethnic Russians, 44 million are Ukranian, and 10 million Belorussian, making these Slavic nationalities combined the dominent population group with 199 million. Uzbek, with a population of almost 17 million, is the third largest nationality.

—*S.K.*

Table 1. Ethnic Composition of the Soviet Population, 1989

	Millions of people
Total population	285.7
Russians	145.1
Ukranians	44.2
Uzbeks	16.7
Belorussians	10.0
Kazaks	8.1
Azerbaydzhanis	6.8
Tatars	6.7
Armenians	4.6
Tadzhiks	4.2
Georgians	4.0
Moldavians	3.4
Lithuanians	3.1
Turkmen	2.7
Kirgiz	2.5
Germans	2.0
Chuvash	1.8
Latvians	1.5
Bashkirs	1.5
Jews	1.4
Mordvinians	1.2
Poles	1.1
Estonians	1.0
Others	12.1

Source: Goskomstat SSSR, Natsional'nyy sostav naseleniya SSSR, Moscow: Finansy i statistika, 1991 (from U.S. Census Bureau Archives).

Iran: Rapid Growth Prompts 5-year Census

Iran's population is growing so fast that the country carried out a special census in September and early October—just five years after its regular decennial census in 1986. Extremely rapid growth and a youthful population have made the 1986 data grossly out of date, according to Mr. Jamshidi, head of Iran's statistics center, according to the Iran Times.

In an unprecedented measure to bring the population crisis message home, census takers distributed birth control devices to families they interviewed. The Iranian government also recently announced that it will deny ration coupons for the fourth child born to any family after next July.

If current estimates of Iran's population are confirmed by the census to be 59.5 million (up 10 million in five years), the country's growth rate is now a soaring 3.6 percent. The population of the Tehran area numbers about 13 million.

Another reason for the special count is that the 1986 census missed many parts of the country because of the war with Iraq.

After the revolution in 1979, the government initially welcomed population increase, but economic and crowding problems caused a dramatic turnabout. [See *PT*, March 1991.] In 1989, Iran adopted a birth control policy that called for reducing average family size to four children, providing family planning services to one-fourth of Iranian women by 1993, and slowing the growth rate to 2.3 percent by 2011. Before his death, the Ayatollah Khomeini endorsed family planning—while continuing to condemn abortion. The Iran government subsidizes condoms and female sterilization.

Iran's current leader, Seyed Ali Khamenei, publicly filled out the census form, urging the public to cooperate. Like many Iranians of his generation, Khamenei has six children.

[Source: *Iran Times*, 9/20/91]

Mexican and Cuban Americans Hold Mainstream Views

In characterizing the political leanings of U.S. Hispanics, the conventional wisdom has been that, on a scale from most liberal to most conservative, we could line up Hispanics by nationality group in this order: Puerto Ricans, Mexican Americans, non-Hispanic whites, and Cuban Americans.

Recent research argues against some of these characterizations. Once sociodemographic factors were controlled for, Mexicans and Cubans were statistically indistinguishable from non-Hispanic whites. Puerto Ricans, however, remain the most liberal group.

This is one surprising finding of the National Latino Political Survey—the first-ever, large-scale survey to report on the political attitudes of Hispanic groups by national origin. It included 1,546 Mexican-American, 589 Puerto-Rican, and 598 Cuban-American households. Hispanics of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban origin make up about three-fourths of all Hispanics in the United States. Participants were queried on the appropriate level of government spending on social welfare, racial quotas, gender equality, and other current issues.

Another survey finding was that few (16 percent) respondents preferred to identify themselves through pan-ethnic terms such as Latino or Hispanic. Rather, 83 percent preferred to be identified by country of origin, for example Mexican American or Puerto Rican.

The survey, reported at the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in August, was funded by the Ford, Spencer, Tinker, and Rockefeller Foundations. Its co-principal investigators were Angelo Falcón, president of the Puerto Rican Institute in New York City, Dr. John García, the University of Arizona; Rudolfo de la Garza of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and Dr. Chris García from the University of New Mexico.

—Taynia Mann and Susan Kalish

Fertility Plunges in Eastern Germany

The recent political upheavals in Europe have had some demographic effects. According to *The Week in Germany*, it was reported at a meeting of the Institute for Educational Development in Dortmund that births in eastern Germany have dropped by *half* in 1991.

Whether the drop off is due to political disruption, migration, or economic uncertainty is not known, but it is a truly dramatic decline. The number of births in the five new German states is only expected to total about 114,000 in 1991, compared to the approximately 225,000 annual births in prior years. The birth rate had dropped somewhat by 1989, so that the former East Germany recorded a natural decrease in that year, but nothing like the decline seen today.

Elsewhere, Romania has also reported a sharp decrease in births, from 16 births per 1,000 people in 1989 to 13.6 in 1990. While not as dramatic as in eastern Germany, the drop in this formerly pronatalist country is notable. In December 1989, family planning measures and abortion once again became legal in Romania, possibly accounting for the falloff.

Meanwhile, Spain may be in the process of setting an all-time low record for country fertility. Spain's reported crude birth rate in 1990 was 10.2 births per 1,000 people. Given the age structure of Spain's population, this birth rate suggests that Spain may soon score an even lower total fertility rate (average lifetime births per woman) than western Germany's record of 1.28, set in 1985. Since only provisional data are available, we can't call this one yet.

—Carl Haub

Martha Herr

Young woman in eastern Germany: Too busy for babies?

Funding Cuts for Census Products Partly Restored

As part of the massive appropriations bill passed October 3, the U.S. Congress restored $20 million of the $30 million in funding cuts proposed by the Senate for the Census Bureau. The cuts, which the Senate Appropriations Committee wrote into the Senate version of the bill this summer, would have drastically reduced funding for publishing the results of the 1990 census. Census data products vary from print volumes for the country and each state, to maps (both paper and computerized), microfiche, and data in computer-readable form.

The cuts had caused considerable consternation among users of census data. According to congressional staff, the many protests received from individual data users were influential in restoring funding. At the current funding level, however, it seems likely that some planned data products may be delayed or have to be abandoned.

Desktop Data Processing: A Report from the Frontier

Auchin Jones

Tom Godfrey: Making a PC do the job of a mainframe.

Desktop computing applications continue to expand rapidly and are becoming a cost effective alternative to large multi-user mainframe systems. But, for the most part, demographers have not found it feasible to shift their number crunching to the personal computer because of the sheer size of the data files they commonly use. Today, desktop processing of large files that reside on standard computer tapes (2400 foot 9-track tapes) is not only possible but can be cost effective and even result in a net savings of time.

For the past six months, Decision Demographics, the consulting arm of the Population Reference Bureau, has ventured into this computing frontier. The report from the frontier is to expect some surprises—some good and a few bad. While obviously a fast personal computer is still no match for a dedicated mainframe, we have found it a time-saving alternative to using a remote mainframe system. Being your own system manager and operator means your name is always at the head of the tape queue and large jobs can be run at will. This advantage, plus having a dedicated processor, can produce a net faster job turnaround. On the other hand, being a system manager means, among other things, fixing things that don't work, optimizing the system configuration, cleaning tape heads, and keeping the tape library organized.

How We Use It

Decision Demographics' tape drive is a self-loading M4 Data LTD model 9914 Streamer. We simply set the tape in and shut the door. It has one of the higher data transfer rates of PC tape drives, being capable of transferring the complete 196Mb of the March 1990 Current Population Survey (CPS) onto the hard disk in less than 15 minutes.

This data transfer is done using CHI software—an easy-to-use software package that communicates with the tape drive. It oversees both tape file reading and writing, as well as system backups. It can read both EBCDIC and ASCII data files on both labeled and unlabeled tapes. A most useful feature is the ability to interactively browse through a tape, viewing records on the screen. CHIDCU, another easy-to-use software program from CHI, permits the selection of fields or records from the source tape data file. Unfortunately our mainstay analysis program, SAS-PC, is incapable of reading or writing directly from/to tape so CHI and CHI-DCU are necessary links to the tape drive. Consequently, files are limited by the 320Mb disk drive—a manageable limit for almost all of our applications.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Reading raw data with SAS-PC with the MS-DOS operating system is one of the slower operations on the PC. Making a SAS system data file from the March 1990 CPS takes about 20 minutes on our 33 MHz "386" PC with a math-coprocessor, 8Mb RAM and a hard disk with a 15 milliseconds average access time. But once the system file is created, analysis proceeds quite quickly. It only takes a few minutes to run a typical set of cross-tabs of all 200,000 persons in the CPS or to accomplish further data manipulation. Even with a file of 30,000 cases, running logistic regression models took less than one minute.

After returning one lemon to the manufacturer, the performance of the tape drive has been flawless. The SAS-PC has given the biggest problems. Reading raw data has been the most problematic area with the SAS-PC program frequently getting "hung" in the process. Program syntax errors do not always produce error messages, which can be particularly frustrating to the programmer. While the SAS Institute consultants have been helpful with some problems, as soon as they learn the size of the data files being used their reaction has often been "that's an awfully large file to be using with SAS-PC under the MS-DOS operating system." Through testing, however, we have shown that many of our problems do not seem inherent to large file size.

Overall, a 9-track tape drive works well with a PC and PC-SAS has been satisfactorily fast. However, the unreliability of SAS has been troubling. Users planning to process large files with SAS-PC should consider using the SAS-PC version for the OS/2 operating system (advice the SAS Institute has given us all along). This operating system is much better configured for processing large data files and consequently SAS is rumored to be at least 50 percent faster than in an MS-DOS environment and less prone to "bugs."

Our experiences in the frontiers of desktop number crunching suggest that, although you don't have to be a computer science specialist to set up and run large PC applications successfully, it is not an endeavor for everyone. Nonetheless, this area is promising territory for the more technically inclined researcher.

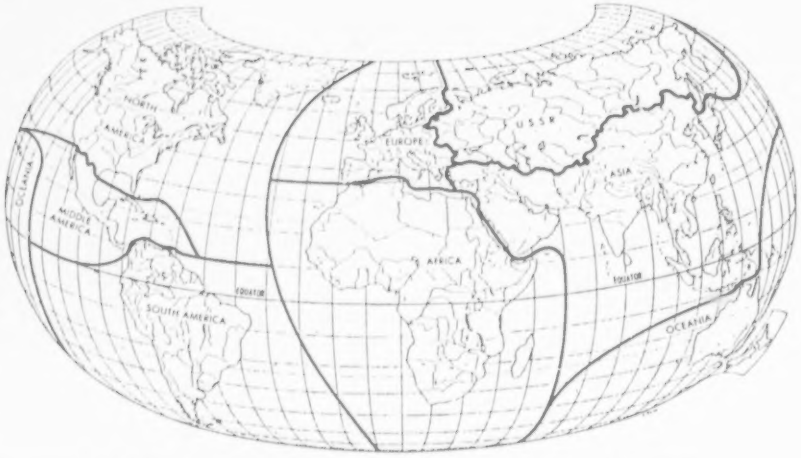
—Tom Godfrey

Tom Godfrey is Vice President for Research with Decision Demographics.

DEMOGRAPHER'S PAGE

The USSR and the Changing Geography of Population

by Carl Haub



Demarcating the world's continents: Once it all seemed so straightforward. (From *World Population and Production*. W.S. and E.S. Woytinsky, 1953.)

Geography is rarely the stuff of headlines, but recent political events may change all that. 1990 saw the reunification of the Germanies and the Yemens. This year, the rapid breakup of the post-coup Soviet Union and a civil war that threatens to break apart Yugoslavia continue to stir the geographic cauldron.

These more recent events, all would agree, are likely to increase the roster of the world's nations, adding new players to the international stage. Press reports tell us that the three independent Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have increased the roster of the world's countries by three. But to what list do we add them? As it turns out, there is no such thing as a definitive inventory of the world's countries or even any accepted criteria that tell us in what region they belong.[1](See box.) The UN *Demographic Yearbook* lists data for "countries or areas," carefully pointing out that that means "countries, territories, cities, or areas."

Exploring some of the difficulties in assigning populations to region and country status, we should recognize that the Earth's land mass is not likely to subdivide itself into neat areas that will avoid arbitrariness in classifications. And, this is hardly the first period in which many country boundaries have changed. Pity the poor geographer/demographer trying to keep up with changes in nineteenth century Europe!

The unification of the two Yemens caused few geographic problems since both North and South Yemen lie in Western Asia. German reunification, however, decreased the population of Eastern Europe by about 16 million. This occurred when the former German Democratic Republic was added to Western Europe.

But the breakup of the Soviet Union is a different matter altogether. This will cause all sorts of difficulties for those who list countries, including the authors of PRB's own *World Population Data Sheet*. But, while that is true enough, it does not mean that the situation was entirely copacetic before. To consider the impact of the Soviet developments, we need to review how countries or areas are presently classified.

Tidying Continental Lists

In the *World Population Data Sheet*, the United Nations' method of classifying territory, and therefore population, is followed almost exactly.[2] This is done because the UN system (as defined by its statistical office) is widely used in the literature on population and development. For the most part, UN classifications are noncontroversial. Africa includes 48 countries on the mainland and a few nearby islands nations.

Latin America includes all countries south of the Rio Grande—a somewhat controversial proposition. Mexico is included in Central America which is itself put into Latin (rather than North) America where North American geographers usually place them.[3] This approach has the effect of placing Central America into the same cultural and linguistic groups as the rest of Latin America *and* keeps it neatly in the less developed category.[4] As a result, the North American population comprises the United States (including Alaska and, yes, even Hawaii), Canada, Bermuda, Greenland, and St. Pierre and Miquelon.

South America (with the "tropical/temperate" distinction now dropped) plus the Caribbean make up the balance of Latin America. The inclusion of the Caribbean has a certain geographic logic, except for distinctly non-Spanish-speaking countries such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana. Even the adjective "Latin" can mean different things to different people. Often used as a synonym for "Spanish-speaking," it can easily cover other languages such as French and even Romanian.

The population of Asia lives in a wide sweep of countries from Japan and the Philippines on the East, down to Indonesia, then westward across the Indian subcontinent to the Arabian Peninsula, terminating in Turkey (a small piece of which is physically in Europe). This is quite a scope. Oceania comprises Australia, New Zealand, the small Pacific islands, and Papua, New Guinea (which

Carl Haub is a demographer and Director of Information and Education at the Population Reference Bureau

shares the island of New Guinea with Indonesia, although the latter is actually counted as being in Asia).

Europe, Asia, and the USSR

Then we have Europe and the USSR. The USSR, of course, spans two continents, both physically and culturally. The traditional dividing lines between Europe and Asia, the Ural and Caucasus mountain ranges, lie within the USSR. So list-makers have chosen to treat the USSR as an entity unto itself—a type of mega-region—neatly finessing the Europe/Asia classification problem. Declarations of independence by some of its former constituent republics seem likely to interfere with this solution sooner or later.

About one-fourth of the USSR's population is in Asia. The first republics to separate, the Baltics, are clearly European, but what section of Europe? For now, it seems to make sense to include them in Northern Europe, based upon latitude and their location on the eastern coast of the Baltic near Finland. (As a footnote, the secession of Lithuania cuts off the Kaliningrad oblast from the Russian Republic; this zone, formerly Konigsberg, contains an important Soviet seaport.)

If other republics break from the USSR, their populations, too, will have to be assigned to a continent. Some are clearly European, such as the Ukraine and Moldavia and some Asian, such as Turkmenistan and Kirghizia. There is some disagreement, however, in the Caucasus region. The National Geographic *Atlas of the World* clearly shows Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaydzhan as Asian. Other maps, however, such as Hammond's, draw the European line further south, at the USSR and Iranian/Turkish border.

Keeping Up with the Headlines

The situation in the USSR (and in Yugoslavia, as well) continues to raise questions. As subnational areas and republics declare independence, when do they achieve separate country status? Can a republic yield some areas of sovereignty, such as foreign relations or an army, to a central government and still be independent? Can they change their minds without agreement from the other republics? For inclusion in the *World Population Data Sheet*, a seat in the UN General Assembly is a significant milestone. In the USSR, this criterion is complicated by the fact that the Ukraine and Belorussia already *have* seats—a holdover from a compromise on the Soviet Union's representation when the UN was first founded.

Further change is clearly in the wind. We should all stay tuned. For now, let's remember that the population of "Europe" actually omits some 200 million Europeans who live in the USSR.

Once (and if) the political changes in Europe sort themselves out, we must then turn a careful geographic eye to Oceania. Micronesia and the Marshall Islands just joined the UN!

What is a Country?

Before counting countries or worrying about where to put them, we first must decide just what a country is. This number becomes significant, after all, when we wish to make statements such as "such-and-such percent of the world's countries import half their food needs." To calculate that, we clearly need to know exactly how many countries exist.

Deciding what to include on an official list of countries is not as straightforward a job as it may seem. For example, France certainly is a country, a fully sovereign state, but what constitutes "France?" France consists of 96 *departments*, including those on the island of Corsica. It excludes the overseas departments of Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana, Reunion, and other territories, which are thereby treated as separate countries.

Webster's defines *country* as follows: "a political state or nation: the territory of a usually independent nation that is distinct as to name and the characteristics...of its people." Yet, on closer examination, independence (like sovereignty) turns out to be a continuum rather than an absolute, and commonwealths are often listed as countries.

For example, the Canary Islands are as much a part of Spain as Hawaii is of the United States. Puerto Rico, however, is a U.S. commonwealth or, in Spanish, "Estado libre asociado" or *free associated state*. The Comoros Islands, in the Indian Ocean, declared themselves independent from France in the 1970s, but the island of Mayotte elected to stay with France and is today a French territory. This split created a new country. Country lists may also include areas in dispute, such as Western Sahara, which is claimed by both Mauritania and Morocco.

Notes

1. About 10 years ago, we discussed the subject of just how to count the world's countries. (*intercom*, 9/80, "How Many Countries Are There Really?"). At that time, the count was 215. We will defer a recount until more is known about events in Europe, particularly Yugoslavia and the USSR.
2. The *World Data Sheet* includes a separate listing for Taiwan, which is not recognized by the UN, includes East Timor as a part of Indonesia, and shows the West Bank area separately.
3. See, for example, *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary* (which uses Hammond maps) and the National Geographic *Atlas of the World*, 6th edition.
4. The categories *developed* and *developing* follow the original delineation outlined in the UN's *World Population Prospects as Assessed in 1963*. That division was based on fertility levels. Regions with a TFR (total fertility rate, or average lifetime births per woman) of 4.1 and higher (that is, a gross reproduction rate of 2.0) were classified as developing. If the exact same criteria were applied today, many countries would move out of the developing category.

Population Scholars Tell All to PAA Historian

After nearly 20 years of fits and starts, the Population Association of America (PAA) has finally completed its Oral History Project. Entitled *Demographic Destinies,* the two-volume study contains extensive interviews with 36 of PAA's 53 past presidents and 14 of its 19 secretary-treasurers.

The project was the brainchild of Anders Lunde, secretary-treasurer of PAA from 1965 to 1968. Lunde, with the help of two colleagues, taped more than a dozen interviews between 1973 and 1979. In 1982, Lunde passed the torch to Jean van der Tak, then editor of the Population Reference Bureau's *Population Bulletin,* who delayed pursuing the project until her retirement in 1987. The choice of van der Tak, a woman of almost frightening energy and persistence, was a most felicitous one.

Van der Tak read voluminous background material, contacted one and all, and set forth to interview her subjects—mostly in their homes or offices. The result was 41 interviews, two of which were "self-interviews" based on a questionnaire. Interviewees were allowed to edit the final product.

The work was a labor of love. Van der Tak gave her time to the project and paid for much of the travel out of her own pocket.

Demographic Destinies sheds light on the development of the 60-year-old PAA and the evolution of demographic thinking. But the volumes are most revealing about the subjects themselves. Despite the opportunity to edit out any indiscreet or controversial observations, the demographers were surprisingly frank. Often professional rivalries are vividly apparent in the interviews. Van der Tak's knowledge of her subjects and her uncompromising questioning help bring out the human side of the intellectual ferment and personal competition that shaped American demographic thinking.

Conrad Taeuber, Irene Taeuber, Philip Hauser, Dudley Kirk, Judith Blake, Donald Bogue, Kingsley Davis, Ansley Coale and the rest come through as interesting human beings as well as commanding intellectuals.

Early PAA meetings were composed of pioneers who knew each other well. "It was a friendly association," recalls Frank Notestein. Eleanor Roosevelt brought her knitting to one session, and Gunnar Myrdal, the famed Swedish sociologist, delighted in the meetings. The first PAA meeting brought together only about 35 people and the old-timers lament the loss of "intimacy" of the original days. "It was a family affair," commented Dudley Kirk. Even today, van der Tak was struck by the "close-knittedness of demographers."

In the post-World War II period, old arguments over demography's true mission—pure research or applied "social engineering"—became more heated. Subsequently, the expanding family planning movement absorbed more and more demographers. More recently, demographics has been pressed into the service of marketing, planning social programs, voting rights, and a host of other endeavors.

Today, the annual PAA meeting attracts more than 1,000 participants, many of whom are highly specialized.

"[T]o judge by attendance at PAA meetings at any rate, the profession is expanding more in the applied field than in teaching and research," contends Kingsley Davis. "That will give rise to almost unlimited prospects."

How did these leading demographers get into the field? The answer varies greatly. One had "fantasies about numbers in high school," another started with an interest in bees and social insects, others were suddenly taken by something they read, and some took advantage of an available scholarship.

The logical next step for PAA would be a formal history of the organization. More ambitiously, it would be good to see a book on the evolution of demographic research and thought in the United States. (For now, a companion piece might be Dennis Hodgson's recent article, "The Ideological Origins of the Population Association of America," in *Population and Development Review,* vol. 17, no. 1, March 1991.)

Demographic Destinies, in two volumes, is available through the Population Association of America, 1722 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Price: $55 for PAA members, $75 for non-members. (Make checks payable to Jean van der Tak.)

—Win Carty

Call for Scholars and Interns

PRB Visiting Scholar Award. Applications are invited for the PRB Visiting Scholar Award for the nine-month period beginning September 1992.

The recipient of the award, made possible under a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will spend at least nine months at PRB's Washington, D.C., office conducting a population-related project. Priority will be given to policy-oriented projects that attempt to synthesize work on a particular topic (including the scholar's own contribution). The project may have an international or domestic focus.

The negotiable stipend is comparable with academic salaries and includes transportation costs. Applicants should submit a brief estimate of transportation and salary requirements; applications combining the award with sabbatical leave are encouraged.

Closing date for applications is January 15, 1992. Interested individuals should forward a brief description of their planned activities, curriculum vitae, and a sample of recent publications to: Martha Farnsworth Riche, Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009; phone: 202-483-1100.

PRB Internship Programs. The Population Reference Bureau is offering three internships for the 1992-1993 year. The *International Programs Internship,* a 12-month position starting in June or July of 1992, offers an opportunity to help with the production and

Continued on next page

Scholars and Interns
Continued from previous page

distribution of population materials for policymakers in developing countries at PRB and at the Agency for International Development. Applications due: April 3, 1992. The nine-month *Academic Year Internship*, starting in August or September 1992, offers an opportunity to work at PRB in the Policy Studies or Information and Education department. Applications due: April 3, 1992. The three-month *Summer Internship* begins in May or June of 1992. Applications due: February 7, 1992. For more information, contact PRB Internship Program at the address above.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Henry S. Shryock, Jr.'s letter (*PT*, July/August 1991, concerning "Infant Mortality: Who's Number One?" in *PT*, March 1991) missed the rather obvious tragedy, and the point of the United States not being "number one" regarding the world's lowest IMR [infant mortality rate].

To the 22,000 [families] of those infants, [who would have survived if the United States had Japan's IMR of 4.4 instead of 10.0 in 1989,] that was not "a tempest in a teapot..." To any observer of the United States, it was also totally unnecessary. That's the tragedy.

And that, Mr. Shryock, is the point.

—Charles W. Snydor, World Relief Office, American Baptist Churches

Mr. Shryock replies:

I agree that our infant mortality rate should be lower than the current 9.1 (and I am almost sure that it will continue to decline). Catching up with the performance of a relatively homogenous, highly educated population such as that of Japan will not be easy, however. Considerable more government spending will be and should be necessary. At least as important is changing the attitudes and behavior of many prospective parents.

SOFTWARE

PROJ3S, a new version of PROJPC, is a population projection program for the personal computer. It was developed by Kenneth Hill of Johns Hopkins University for the World Bank.

The program can carry out several projections forward or back in time. For example, it can run projections for 30 provinces with different assumptions, and then total them for the whole country. The maximum projection period is 75 years—long enough for most applications. PROJ3S can also run two projections together with symmetrical migration flows, such as migration between urban and rural areas of a country.

The user can enter and modify data either through a relatively user-oriented interactive program or by using the text editor. The program checks entries to assure that they fall within accepted ranges. The output format is readable and well-organized. This new version is especially suitable for making projections in low mortality, more developed countries. It uses the latest modification of Coale-Guo model life tables (1989), even extending them further upwards to a female life expectancy of 90 years. The terminal age group (highest ages) can be set to 85+.

PROJ3S is flexible in output options. One can report on special age groupings (such as 5-12, 13-17) as well as the standard five, ten, and single age years. One can also select any calendar year.

PROJ3S requires an IBM-compatible computer with at least 512KB memory and at least one floppy disk drive. PROJ3S (two diskettes and reference guide) can be ordered from World Bank Publications, 1818 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20433; or the World Bank Bookstore 202-473-2941. Cost: $32.50.

—*M.Y.*

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated United States Population:

As of July 1, 1991	252,626,000
As of July 1, 1990	249,975,000

The above estimates, based on the 1990 Census, include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census *Current Population Reports*, P-25, no. 1077.

Estimated World Population:

As of November 1991	5,415,000,000
Annual growth	93,000,000

Extrapolated from the mid-1991 population on PRB's *1991 World Population Data Sheet*.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: June 1991

	12 months ending with June					
	Number		Rate			
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1989	1988
Live births	4,131,000	4,136,000	16.4	16.6	16.0	15.8
Deaths	2,143,000	2,169,000	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.9
Natural increase	1,988,000	1,967,000	7.9	7.9	7.3	6.9
Marriages	2,407,000	2,420,000	9.5	9.7	9.7	9.7
Divorces	1,172,000	1,175,000	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8
Infant deaths	37,700	38,600	9.1	9.4	9.9	10.0

Note: Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.
Source: *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* (vol. 40, no. 6) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

TAKE A NUMBER

The USSR's Constituent Republics, Past and Present

	Population 1991 (millions)	Births per 1,000 pop.	Deaths per 1,000 pop.	Rate of Natural Increase (%/year)	Pop. 2010 (millions)	Pop. 2025 (millions)	Infant deaths per 1,000 live births	Total fertility rate[1]	Life expectancy (in years)	% of pop. <15/>65+	% urban
Former Republics											
Estonia	1.6	14.2	12.3	0.19	1.6	1.6	14.7	2.2	71	22/11	72
Latvia	2.7	14.0	12.9	0.11	2.7	2.7	11.1	2.0	70	21/12	71
Lithuania	3.8	15.1	10.7	0.44	4.0	4.1	10.7	2.0	72	23/11	68
Present Republics	**284**	**17.0**	**10.0**	**0.7**	**322**	**356**	**23.0**	**2.4**	**70**	**26/9**	**66**
Armenia*	3.3	24.1	6.6	1.75	4.3	4.9	20.4	2.6	72	30/5	68
Azerbaydzhan*	7.3	25.5	6.0	1.95	10.2	12.3	26.2	2.8	71	33/5	54
Belorussia	10.4	13.9	10.7	0.32	11.1	11.6	11.8	2.0	72	23/10	66
Georgia*	5.5	17.3	8.6	0.87	6.2	6.7	19.6	2.1	72	25/9	56
Kazahkstan*	17.0	21.7	7.7	1.40	22.4	26.4	25.9	2.8	69	32/6	57
Kirghizia*	4.5	29.3	7.0	2.23	6.8	8.9	32.2	3.8	69	37/5	38
Moldavia	4.4	17.6	9.7	0.79	4.9	5.3	20.4	2.5	69	28/8	47
Russia*	148.9	13.5	11.2	0.23	153.7	157.8	17.8	2.0	70	23/10	74
Tadzhikistan*	5.5	38.4	6.2	3.22	9.1	13.0	43.2	5.1	69	43/4	33
Turkmenistan*	3.8	34.1	7.0	2.71	6.0	8.2	54.7	4.3	65	41/4	45
Ukraine	52.0	12.7	12.1	0.06	53.9	55.0	13.0	1.9	71	22/12	67
Uzbekistan	21.0	33.4	6.1	2.73	33.4	45.5	37.7	4.0	69	41/4	41

Sources: *Demographic Yearbook of the USSR*, 1990; USSR Press Bulletin, No. 88, 1991; data provided by Center for International Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census; 1991 estimates by PRB.

*Republics usually considered to lie wholly or partly in Asia.

[1]Total Fertility Rate= the average number of births a group of women would have in their lifetimes, if the current age-specific rates of childbearing remained unchanged.

Announcing "Population: A Lively Introduction"

Population: A Lively Introduction appears this month as the latest in PRB's *Population Bulletin* series. In a highly readable fashion, this *Bulletin* presents basic what, why, and how of the study of demography. While not a comprehensive treatment, it provides an overview of demographic processes and the basic measures used to assess them.

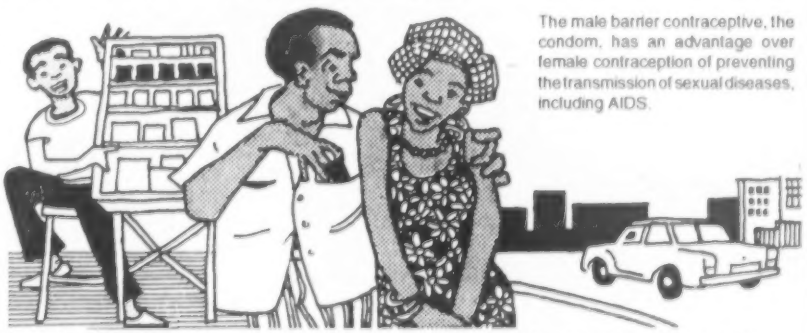
According to author Joseph McFalls: "People find demography fascinating because it deals with so many personally relevant topics. Nearly all the major events of people's lives have demographic implications: birth, schooling, marriage, occupation, childbearing, retirement, and death. If people are not interested in demographic phenomena, they are not interested in themselves."

McFalls traces population trends in the world and the United States, surveys the demographic differences among population groups, and examines broad social issues linked to population change. The author is an associate professor at Villanova University and a veteran teacher of introductory courses in population studies. The work is intended to fill a gap in classroom materials.

Population: A Lively Introduction, by Joseph McFalls. Population Bulletin, vol. 46, no. 2. 44 pp. Population Reference Bureau, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009. Cost: $7 plus $1 shipping each (prepaid); discounts for multiple orders. 202-483-1100.

ADDENDA

Barrier to disease—the male contraceptive



The male barrier contraceptive, the condom, has an advantage over female contraception of preventing the transmission of sexual diseases, including AIDS.

Pocketing a condom from a street vendor: Cartoon emphasizes the male role in contraception.

CURRENT READINGS

A FUTURE OF LOUSY JOBS? The Changing Structure of U.S. Wages, Gary Burtless, ed. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution,1990. ISBN: 0-8157-1179-4; $12.95 (paper).

THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF AMERICAN FAMILIES: Income and Wealth Patterns, by Frank Levy and Richard C. Michel. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Press, 1991. ISBN: 087766-487-0; $15.25 (paper).

These analyses from two premier think tanks tackle the issue of growing income inequality in the United States. They cover much the same time period (the post World War II era) and both seek the causes of deepening income class division in the United States. Both locate a break with historical pattern in the early 1970s, when the wages of less-skilled men (which had been improving since the turn of the century) began to stagnate and decline.

Despite some overlap in content, their perspectives are quite different. Burtless sets out to examine "the decline—or perceived decline—in middle-class jobs" (specifically, men's wages) while Levy and Michels focus on family income and the future well-being of young workers starting out today.

Burtless' book is a collection of essays which grew out of a seminar at The Brookings Institution in March 1989. In the first essay, McKinley L. Blackburn, David E. Bloom, and Richard B. Freeman investigate the declining economic position of less-skilled American men. Rebecca M. Black discusses the pluses and minuses of part-time employment. Linda Datcher Loury looks at the effects of cohort size on post-secondary training. Robert A. Moffitt refutes the idea that the availability of welfare payments has created a disincentive to work. Burtless himself examines earnings inequality over business and demographic cycles.

For Levy and Michel, 1973 (the year of the first oil price shock) was the watershed year for U.S. productivity growth and family well-being. The authors demonstrate first a slowdown in family accumulation of wealth, and then income stagnation. Older, pre-baby-boom couples, however, remained largely unaffected; they were able to accumulate wealth through rising housing values and other means.

The authors project the future wages of the young workers of today, using two scenarios: 1) we will continue at the same level of productivity and growth of today; or 2) the situation will improve slightly. Their analysis shows a striking discrepancy between the probable fortunes of high-school versus college graduates. For example, under a slow-growth scenario, a college graduate who is earning $26,000 at age 30 in 1986 will 20 years later in 2006 earn $43,300—equaling his father's peak earning year. But, take a high school graduate whose father was also a high school graduate. The son, who earned about $18,200 at age 30 in 1986, will experience relatively flat income growth over his career. He will barely exceed his father's peak earning years, even under the higher-productivity scenario. These scenarios hold for two-wage earner families as well.

Levy and Michel recommend a hefty social investment in education of today's young people—for the good of both the individual and society.

—Susan Kalish

POPULATION AND DISASTER, edited by John I. Clarke, Peter Curson, S.L. Kayastha, and Prithvish Nag. Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1989. 292 pages. ISBN 0-631-16682-3. $57.95 hardback.

One question that I am often asked during presentations is: "What is the impact of wars, famines, epidemics, earthquakes, and other disasters on population growth?" *Population and Disaster* presents 18 essays that speak to this question. It examines the direct and indirect demographic consequences of a variety of natural and man-made disasters worldwide.

The editors begin and conclude with the problem of defining *disaster*. Coming to no precise definition, they leave the reader with a series of interdisciplinary components through which to measure each incident. Subjects range from natural (such as typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis) to human-made (for example, war, industrial and nuclear accidents, political interventions) to biological (infectious disease epidemics), as well as disasters of mixed natural and man-made components, such as drought and famine.

The essays on drought in the Sahel and famine in China are the most thorough in their coverage of the immediate and long term effects of famine and displacement on population growth. The article on the Sahel mostly examines theories on mortality, age and sex specific death rates, fertility (and its determinants), and migration. The essay on China's famine of 1959-1961 includes a wealth of historical data, backing up the theories with quantitative examples. Similarly, the essay on the demographic impact of the Spanish Civil War uses data to analyze changes in fertility and mortality and the resulting population structure.

Although the lack of an explicit thematic organization is a weakness, the book provides much helpful information on the immediate and long-term implications of disasters for demographers, geographers, planners, policymakers, and others involved in crisis management.

—Kimberly Crews

Cuba

Population: 10.7 million
Total area: 44,220 sq. mi.
Population density: 243/sq. mi.
Births per 1,000 pop.: 18
Deaths per 1,000 pop.: 6
Rate of natural increase: 1.1 percent
Total fertility rate: 1.9
Infant mortality rate: 10.7 per 1,000 live births
Life expectancy: 76
Capital: Havana

by Alex de Sherbinin

At just under 11 million people, Cuba is larger than all but four countries in and around the Caribbean (the U.S., Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela). In terms of its demographic and health indicators, Cuba also stands apart. Aside from the tiniest island nations, Cuba has the lowest total fertility and infant mortality rates and the highest life expectancy in all of the Caribbean.

These indicators are attributable in part to medical advances made during Cuba's long association with the United States, and in part to the large investments that the Castro regime has made in human services following the 1959 revolution. Using the People's Republic of China as a model, Cuba's government extended services into poor rural areas previously neglected, and launched a literacy drive which rapidly brought reading and writing skills to over 90 percent of the population. Currently, the Cuban health care system provides universal health and family planning services.

Cuba's fertility rates began to decline in the 1920s, earlier than in most other Latin American countries. Following the 1959 revolution, Cuba experienced a baby boom that lasted until the late 1960s. The most recent fertility decline began in the early 1970s and accelerated dramatically later in the decade, plunging from over four births per woman to replacement level in 10 years.

These declines are mostly attributable to a marked increase in abortions, with rates averaging 440 per 1,000 pregnancies from 1977 through 1986. Within the past five years, increased use of contraceptives, mostly the pill and IUD, further reduced the TFR (total fertility rate, or average lifetime births per woman) to below replacement levels. Interestingly, Cuban demographers have interpreted the decline in light of Marxist theory, rather than in terms of increased reproductive choice.

In recent years, Cuba has experienced a faltering economy and a declining standard of living, which have contributed to large-scale migration to the United States. U.S. immigration policy, which grants political asylum to any Cuban not convicted of a crime, has helped to hasten the flow which this year is expected to approach 40,000 people—almost one-third the number of migrants recorded during the 1980 Mariel boatlift. Strict emigration laws, which for years have kept Cubans from emigrating, are gradually being relaxed.

Cuba's economic fortune, long tied to that of its biggest trading partner, the Soviet Union, began to slump when the Soviets stopped subsidizing the economy by purchasing Cuban sugar at well over world market prices. Cuba is the third-largest cane producer in the world, and sugar cane had until recently accounted for three-fourths of export earnings. Food and fuel shortages and other economic difficulties are reported.

POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU, INC.
1875 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 520
Washington, D.C. 20009-5728